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NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Candace Moore, Public Information Coordinator
Contact Phone: 208-378-5600 candy.moore@id.usda.gov

IDAHO USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKS TO ASSIST KATRINA EVACUEES

Boise, Idaho – Idaho USDA Rural Development State Director Mike Field said today there are 180 USDA Rural Development financed multi-family housing units in Idaho available for evacuees of the Gulf Region.

USDA Rural Development has forwarded the information to the Governor's task force, working on housing Hurricane Katrina evacuees. The housing is located from Rexburg to Caldwell and from Preston to Priest River. Nationally, USDA Rural Development has identified thousands of housing units available to hurricane victims and is working closely with FEMA, state and non-profit agencies to place the evacuees in clean, safe units.

“We recognize that many of those needing assistance come from rural communities,” said Field. “We can provide immediate housing for those hurricane evacuees coming to Idaho. We stand ready to help during this time of transition.”

Rural Development's staff in Idaho has contacted the owners or management companies of all of their multi-family complexes to determine how many units of housing could be made available. Agency officials were overwhelmed by the positive response from all managers to lend a helping hand. The agency has waived most of the application requirements and will be able to move people in with a minimum of paperwork. Evacuees will have to be registered with FEMA prior to placement.

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9173 West Barnes Drive • Suite A1 • Boise, ID 83709
Phone: (208) 378-5600 • Fax: (208) 378-5643 • TDD: (208) 378-5644 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/id>

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